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UMBRA

UN-USSR-AFGHANISTAN: UN Secretary General's Visit

The Soviets probably will try to convey an impression of flexibility on Afghanistan in talks next week with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, but major concessions are unlikely. [REDACTED]

//Perez de Cuellar, who arrives in Moscow tomorrow to meet General Secretary Andropov for the first time, expects UN negotiating efforts on Afghanistan to be the main subject. [REDACTED]

//Cordovez has been seeking agreement on a Soviet troop withdrawal, guarantees from all parties of noninterference in a neutral Afghanistan, and the safe return of refugees from Pakistan and Iran. After his recent talks, Cordovez claimed to have general Soviet-Afghan agreement that a definite timetable for withdrawal would be discussed. [REDACTED]

Comment: Andropov probably wants to alleviate international criticism of the USSR's role in Afghanistan. He is thus likely to try to convince Perez de Cuellar that Moscow is seriously looking for a political way out of its involvement and values the UN's continuing help. [REDACTED]

Although Andropov may agree in principle that Soviet troops eventually will be withdrawn, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Andropov may echo the official's insistence that negotiations should focus first on UN arrangements for Pakistan to close guerrilla training camps and political offices and to halt arms aid to insurgents as a precondition to withdrawal. [REDACTED]

The Soviet leader may want to see if UN mediation can be exploited to ensure the survival of a pro-Soviet Marxist regime in Kabul at less cost to Moscow. He also may hope a deteriorating domestic situation in Pakistan will make President Zia more willing to accept such a regime. [REDACTED]

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